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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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BAKER BOTTS L.L.P. 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA 44TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10112-4498			EXAMINER LEROUX, ETIENNE PIERRE	
			ART UNIT 2161	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 02/02/2009	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/830,899

Applicant(s)

PAEK ET AL.

Examiner

Etienne P. LeRoux

Art Unit

2161

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 December 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Claim Status

Claims 1-43 are pending

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hongo (US 4,712,248).

Regarding claim 1, 17, 33, Hongo discloses:

(a) at least one multimedia information input interface receiving said multimedia information;

[Fig 1(a), iTV camera 1]

(b) a computer processor [Fig 1(A), preliminary processing circuit 21], coupled to said at least one multimedia information input interface,

receiving said multimedia information therefrom [col 3, lines 5-10, the output of video signal of the iTV camera 1 is converted into a binary signal by the preliminary processing circuit],

processing said multimedia information by performing object extraction processing to create multimedia object descriptions from said multimedia information [col 1, lines 45-50, an object identifying apparatus for extracting feature data of an object to be identified and for comparing

the extracted feature data to feature data of reference objects to determine the identity of the object to be identified]

and processing said created multimedia object descriptions by object hierarchy processing to generate create multimedia object hierarchy descriptions [Fig 9, col 9, lines 25-40] indicative of an organization of said object descriptions,

wherein at least one description record including said multimedia object descriptions and said multimedia object hierarchy descriptions is created for content embedded within said multimedia information [col 3, lines 10-15, the feature extraction circuit 22 divides the binary-coded image into picture elements having a predetermined size, extracts data on each picture element or on a segment representing a series of picture elements in a horizontal scanning line]; and

(c) a data storage system, operatively coupled to said processor, for storing said at least one description record [Fig 1(A), image memory 23, col 3, lines 1-30]

Regarding claim 2, 18, 34, Hongo discloses wherein said multimedia information comprises image information, said multimedia object descriptions comprise image object descriptions, and said multimedia object hierarchy descriptions comprise image object hierarchy descriptions [Fig 1(A), iTV camera 1]

Regarding claim 3, 19, Hongo discloses:

(a) image segmentation processing to segment each image in said image information into regions within said image; and

(b) feature extraction processing to create one or more feature descriptions for one or more of said regions; whereby said created object descriptions comprise said one or more feature descriptions for one or more of said regions [col 3, lines 1-25]

Regarding claim 4, 20, 35, Hongo discloses wherein said one or more feature descriptions are selected from the group consisting of text annotations, color, texture, shape, size, and position [abstract]

Regarding claim 5, 21, 36, Hongo discloses wherein said object hierarchy processing comprises physical object hierarchy organization to generate create physical object hierarchy descriptions of said image object descriptions that are based on spatial characteristics of said objects, such that said image object hierarchy descriptions comprise physical descriptions [col 1, lines 50-55]

Regarding claim 6, 22, 37, Hongo discloses wherein said object hierarchy processing further comprises logical object hierarchy organization to create logical object hierarchy descriptions of said image object descriptions that are based on semantic characteristics of said objects, such that said image object hierarchy descriptions comprise both physical and logical descriptions [col 2, lines 5-10]

Regarding claim 7, 23, Hongo discloses

(a) image segmentation processing to segment each image in said image information into regions within said image; and

(b) feature extraction processing to create object descriptions for one or more of said regions and wherein said physical hierarchy organization and said logical hierarchy organization create hierarchy descriptions of said object descriptions for said one or more of said regions [col 9, lines 25-40]

Regarding claim 8, 24, 32, Hongo discloses an encoder receiving said image object hierarchy descriptions and said image object descriptions, and encoding said image object hierarchy descriptions and said image object descriptions into encoded description information, wherein

said data storage system is operative to store said encoded description information as said at least one description record [col 3, lines 5-25]

Regarding claim 9, 25, 38, Hongo discloses video information, said multimedia object descriptions comprise video object descriptions including both event descriptions and object descriptions, and said multimedia hierarchy descriptions comprise video object hierarchy descriptions including both event hierarchy descriptions and object hierarchy descriptions [col 3, line 7]

Regarding claim 10, 26, Hongo discloses

(a) temporal video segmentation processing to temporally segment said video information into one or more video events or groups of video events and create event descriptions for said video events,

(b) video object extraction processing to segment said one or more video events or groups of video events into one or more regions, and to create object descriptions for said regions; and

(c) feature extraction processing to generate create one or more event feature descriptions for said one or more video events or groups of video events, and one or more object feature descriptions for said one or more regions;

wherein said created video object descriptions include said event feature descriptions and said object descriptions [col 3, line 55]

Regarding claim 11, 27, 39, Hongo wherein said one or more event feature descriptions are selected from the group consisting of text annotations, shot transition, camera motion, time and key frame, and wherein said one or more object feature descriptions are selected from the group consisting of color, texture, shape, size, position, motion, and time [col 3, lines 1-15]

Regarding claim 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 28, 29, 30, 31, 40, 41, 42, 43, Hongo discloses wherein said object hierarchy processing comprises physical event hierarchy organization to generate create physical event hierarchy descriptions of said video object descriptions that are based on temporal characteristics of said video objects, such that said video hierarchy descriptions comprise temporal descriptions [col 1, lines 40-55]

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 1/22/2008 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Etienne P. LeRoux whose telephone number is (571) 272-4022. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Apu Mofiz can be reached on (571) 272-4080. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Etienne P LeRoux/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2161

1/28/2009